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"A. O. LEUSCHNER, a graduate of the University of Michigan, 1888, who is instructor in the University of California at Berkeley and who is a candidate for the Doctor's degree.

"D. W. MURPHY, a graduate of the Stanford University, 1892. Special.

"S. D. TOWNLEY, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, 1890, and Hearst Fellow of Astronomy in the Lick Observatory, who is a candidate for the Doctor's degree.

"There are already several applications on file for admission to the observatory during the next year.

"It is clear from this list that a real need for a graduate school of the highest class exists in America; that the Lick Observatory is ready to fill the want and to give true university instruction after the more elementary college work has been done at Berkeley and elsewhere.

"It should be obvious to all Californians that their State University is growing by leaps and bounds in very many of its departments; and in no department, perhaps, more rapidly than in the Lick Observatory." EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

July 19, 1892.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF APRIL 16, 1893.

It is understood that the total eclipse of April 16, 1893, is to be observed by a French party under MM. BIGOURDAN and DESLANDRES in Senegal. The French Chambers have been asked to appropriate 17,000 francs for the necessary expenses.

It is probable that three parties will take station in Chili: namely, a party from the Arequipa station of the Harvard College Observatory; a Chilian party; and the Lick Observatory party under Professor SCHAEBERLE. So far as I know the stations of parties to be sent by the Royal Astronomical Society are not yet determined upon. At least one party from the Observatory of Rio Janeiro will observe the eclipse in Brazil, and it is possible that Professor PRITCHETT may again organize an expedition from Washington University, Saint Louis. E. S. H.

INVESTIGATION OF THE SYSTEMS OF BRIGHT STREAKS ON THE MOON.

Dr. OTTO BOEDDICKER, Astronomer of Lord ROSSE'S Observatory, has kindly offered to begin the study of the systems of

bright streaks on the moon, which was spoken of in these *Publications*, Vol. IV, page 81, so soon as he shall have received the necessary glass copies of the Lick Observatory photographs. These are now ready and will shortly be in his hands. The observatory is fortunate in promptly finding so able a co-adjutor.
E. S. H.

Resignation of Dr. Henry Crew.

Dr. Henry Crew, Astronomer in the Lick Observatory, has resigned his position here and has accepted the appointment of Professor of Physics in the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.
E. S. H.

Powder Explosion at West Berkeley, July 9, 1892.

The following account of the great explosion is copied from *Industry* for August, 1892:

"The Giant Powder Works plant, near West Berkeley, a suburban place on the northeastern coast of the bay, about eight miles from San Francisco, was blown up at nine o'clock A. M. on the ninth of July, and it is believed to be the most extensive explosion of the kind that has ever happened. Being situated on a spit of land projecting out into the bay there was a free course for air disturbance to the city, and other surroundings on the southern and western side of the bay, and windows were crushed for a distance of ten miles where no elevated land intervened. The air disturbance followed channels where the physical formation permitted horizontal flow, and even streets in the city seemed to have guided the lines of greatest effect.

"The loss of life was happily very slight compared with what might be expected, most of the people after the first explosion making their way to some distance, so that the force of the explosion passed over them. The number reported killed is less than ten, of whom all but three were Chinamen. It requires only a short time, and a little distance, to get without the active circle of explosions, which act upward at an angle of ten to twenty degrees, principally because of the material being partially below the surface of the ground, as in the case of magazines, also because the first effect is to excavate a pit the walls of which act as directing angles.

"The amount of material finished and in process is not